

13. On a new Species of *Calyptomena*. By R. BOWDLER
SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received June 23, 1887.]

The genus *Calyptomena* has, until now, been considered to contain a single species, *C. viridis* (Raffl.), confined to the Indo-Malayau region, and more especially common in Malacca and Borneo than in any other part of its range. The splendid species which I now describe makes the second one of the genus, and was discovered by my friend Mr. John Whitehead on the mountain of Kina Balu. It is at least twice the size of *Calyptomena viridis*, and is easily distinguished by the characters given below. I have named it after Mr. Whitehead, in acknowledgment of the enterprise he has shown during his travels in the East.

CALYPTOMENA WHITEHEADI, sp. nov.

♂. *C. similis C. viridi, sed duplo major, et plaga magna jugulari nigra, plumis dorsi pectorisque nigris, viridi lanceolatim terminatis, cauda velutino-nigra (ad basin viridi) et secundariis cyaneo marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 11·0, culm. 0·65, alæ 6·35, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 1·0.*

♀. *Mari similis, sed coloribus dilutionibus et crista frontali minore distinguenda. Long. tot. 9·8, culm. 0·75, alæ 6·1, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 1·05.*

Hab. In monte 'Kina Balu' dicto, in Borneo septentrionali.

November 15, 1887.

Prof. W. H. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following reports on the additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, September, and October, 1887:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of June was 143, of which 31 were by birth, 75 by presentation, 25 by purchase, and 12 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 94.

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of July were 130 in number; of these 53 were acquired by presentation, 32 by purchase, 15 by birth, and 30 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 83.

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of August was 104; of these 48 were acquired by presentation, 37 by purchase, 12 by birth, and 7 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 199.

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of September was 136; of these 72 were acquired by presentation, 25 by purchase, 2 by exchange, 7 were bred in the Gardens, and 30 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 109.

Amongst these may be specially noticed :—

1. A Red-and-White Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys alborufus*), from the province of Szechuen, in the interior of China, presented by Percy Montgomery, Esq., of Ichang, China, and received September 9th. This fine large Flying Squirrel, which was described and figured by Monsieur Alphonse Milne-Edwards ('Recherches pour servir à l'Hist. Nat. d. Mammifères,' p. 298, pl. xlv.), from specimens obtained by Père David on the Tibetan confines of China, is quite new to us, and is, I believe, also unrepresented in the National Collection.

2. An Urva Ichneumon (*Herpestes urva*), purchased September 17th. This Himalayan Carnivore is also new to us. It is well figured in Hodgson's unpublished drawings in the Society's Library ('Mammals of India,' vol. ii. pls. 128, 129).

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of October was 109, of which 4 were by birth, 45 by presentation, 4 by purchase, 53 by exchange, and 3 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 93.

The following additions are of special interest :—

1. A young male Gorilla (*Anthropithecus gorilla*), purchased October 10th, of Mr. Cross of Liverpool, being the first Gorilla acquired by the Society.

The animal appears to be about three years old, and its height two feet six inches.

The Gorilla has been placed in the Sloths' House, in an adjoining compartment to that of the female Bald Chimpanzee "Sally," received Oct. 24, 1883, so that there is now a good opportunity for comparing these two forms of Anthropoid Apes.

2. An Aye-Aye (*Chiromys madagascariensis*), purchased Oct. 28th, being the second example of this rare animal which has been acquired by the Society.

The following extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Herr W. v. Nathusius of Königsborn :—

"I have the pleasure to send you by this, three preparations of

Symbiotes, containing (as labelled):—(1) ♂ (not quite perfect) in copulation with ♀ imperfect; (2) three perfect ♂s; (3) one very young ♀. The last-named object is not easily to be found in the Canada balsam, it is therefore marked by a red circle. The male and female in the act of copulation, the female being yet in the so-called larval state, are perhaps interesting.

“With due respect to Prof. Brown’s opinion, I beg leave to observe that since my publication Prof. Pflug, Director of the Veterinary Institution at Giessen, and other veterinaries, have expressed their surprise at the necessity of reminding the public of a fact so well known as of *Symbiotes* being the cause of Fussrande (*i. e.* grease).

“From what I find in Stonehenge, ‘British Rural Sports,’ 2nd ed. 1856, and Stephens’s ‘Book of the Farm,’ 2nd ed. 1855, I am under the impression that the first stages of the infection (*i. e.* the dry excretion) are frequently overlooked in England; but I own frankly that the peculiar liability of cart-horses to grease may easily foster the idea of the existence of a constitutional disease. Evidently these Acari find a comfortable existence only on horses’ feet that are covered by a voluminous cutis and furnished with coarse hair. Experience has shown, in the mange of Man, that in such cases of parasitism opposing convictions are not easily overcome.

“Perhaps artificial infection, by applying the dry excretions, the existence of *Symbiotes* having been ascertained in them by microscopical investigation, to the feet of a sound horse, would be the strongest test. Of the importance of a decision there can be no doubt, I think.”

The Secretary read the following extract from a letter addressed to him by Surgeon-General George Bidie, C.I.E., C.M.Z.S., dated Ootacamund, 8th October, 1887:—

“I am sending you by this mail, by book-post, a photograph of a male and female Elephant in sexual congress, an incident very rarely seen by human eyes and one which, so far as I know, has never before been pictured by the camera. Both animals belong to the Commissariat Department, and at the time of contact were at Thayetmyo, a Military Station on the frontier of Lower Burmah. The sexual intercourse of the pair of animals was fruitful; and Capt. L. J. Torrie, who was in charge of the stud, tells me that gestation lasted for about 21 months. The calf when born was of a very pale colour, which led to a rumour getting abroad that a White Elephant had been born. This created a great deal of excitement amongst the Burmese; and as the mother refused at first to have anything to do with her young one, the native ‘milky mothers’ from the bazaars volunteered to draw and give the calf milk from their breasts!”

Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, F.Z.S., read the following observations on the “British Marine Area,” prepared by Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S., and himself.

By the courtesy of Professor Haddon, who acted as its Secretary,

we have received advance copies of the Report of the British Association Committee, "appointed for the purpose of considering the question of accurately defining the term 'British,' as applied to the Marine Fauna and Flora of our Islands." To us it is a question of especial interest, feeling as we do that our best efforts ought to be directed to the care and maintenance of one of the most instructive and one of the most popular of the Galleries in the British Museum of Natural History—the one which is ordinarily known as the British Room.

When we ask ourselves what that room should contain, we have to answer—the products of the British Seas; and when we go further and ask, What are the British Seas? there is only one answer that can be given us—the waters that wash the British coasts as far as three miles from land. This is, all the world knows, an arbitrary or conventional arrangement.

If, on the other hand, we seek for the natural boundaries of the British Marine Area, we are met by the facts that it merges on the south into that of the coasts of France, and on the north into those of Norway; the only species that can be considered in any way peculiar to it are little-known forms from great depths, such as *Amphiura bellis*, var. *tritonis*, of Hoyle. Indeed, in the classical work of Edward Forbes¹, the Shetland Islands form part of his Boreal Province, and the rest of the British Isles constitute the northern portion of the Celtic Province, whose southern boundary is the Bay of Biscay.

We are therefore forced to conclude that there is no such thing as a British Marine Area; this is not to be taken as implying that we think that the British Association Committee were engaged on a task which was a mere waste of time, but only to give force to the way in which we should wish to approach the question.

Without seeking for limitations, we ask what may we put in the "British Room," or whence may collectors who confine their collections to British specimens get their examples?

If we are to bind ourselves by the rules of the Committee, we must omit specimens taken from the Channel Islands: this we cannot but think is a regrettable decision; the community of the fauna on either bank of the English Channel is very well marked, but, as a rule, the specimens which come from the southern side are so much finer, and the opportunities for collecting them are generally so much more advantageous that (bearing always in mind that we have to do with an artificially restricted area) we should be reluctant to lose our best hunting-ground. We may, we think, claim that Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys would have been of this opinion².

Our view, then, as to the limits of the area are best expressed in the following terms: we would apply the principle of using political divisions *cum grano salis*—including, that is, the Channel Islands, the Shetlands, and St. Kilda, but omitting Heligoland.

It may be pointed out that a strict interpretation of the rules pro-

¹ 'Natural History of the European Seas.'

² See his 'British Conchology,' i. p. cxi.

posed by the B. A. Committee would result in the exclusion of St. Kilda.

We recognize the value of the criticism that it is often difficult or inconvenient for a dredger to know whether he is more or less than three miles from shore, and we see clearly that to the north and west of our shores the 100-fathom limit has advantages over the three-miles limit; if it be taken *cum grano salis*, that is so as to include St. Kilda, it will doubtless be found preferable to the political boundary in the Irish and Scotch Seas. If it be retorted on us that in taking a different limit for different parts of the area we reflect on the principles which we ourselves propose to use, we answer, not that we are affected by the present rage for inconsistency, but that, recognizing and insisting on the artificial nature of the area, howsoever defined, we would try so to bound it as to give the greatest satisfaction to the largest number of collectors.

Prof. Newton, V.P. (on behalf of Mr. William Eagle Clarke), exhibited a stuffed specimen of Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria columbina*), remarking:—

“Some doubt having, it seems, been expressed as to the occurrence of Bulwer's Petrel in this country, which was announced by Gould in the concluding part of his ‘Birds of Europe,’ published on the 1st of August, 1837, Mr. William Eagle Clarke, Curator of the Museum of the Philosophical and Literary Society at Leeds, determined to investigate the facts; and as his search for the specimen in question has been successful, I have great pleasure in exhibiting it to you, on his behalf, to-night. I have the greater pleasure in doing this as, but for his perseverance and that of a local naturalist, Mr. James Carter, of Burton House, Masham, the specimen would probably have been for ever lost sight of, whereas we may now hope that it will find a permanently safe abode. Gould's statement was that the specimen having been found dead on the banks of the Ure, near Tanfield in Yorkshire, on the 8th of May, 1837, was brought to Captain Dalton, of Slenningferd near Ripon, a gentleman, as I learn, who had succeeded to a collection of stuffed birds begun by his father. The father was Colonel Dalton, who, curiously enough, had sent Bewick the specimen of the Common Stormy Petrel (also found dead in that neighbourhood) from which the figure and description in his well-known work was taken (British Birds, ed. 1, ii. pp. 249–251). At the end of last May, Mr. W. E. Clarke applied to Mr. Carter, and the first result of the latter's inquiry was to find that the Dalton collection had been dispersed by sale just a week before. Fortunately all the cases of stuffed birds had been bought by persons living in Ripon; and, having obtained their names from the auctioneer, Mr. Carter, after many failures and some loss of time, discovered in the possession of Mr. Jacobs, the Head-master of the Choir-School in that city, the case and the specimen before you, labelled ‘*Procellaria bulwerii*,’ which he had bought with others at the Dalton sale. Beyond this fact, however, there was no note or anything to identify the specimen with the object of the search. Mr. Carter thereupon

undertook to inquire of the surviving members and connexions of the Dalton family, and, fortunately again, one of the latter, being Mr. George Clarke of Tanfield House, Bedale, a son-in-law of Captain Dalton, was found, who not only remembered the specimen perfectly well, having seen it 'scores of times,' but produced an old manuscript note he had made on the margin of a 'Bewick' (in which he had been accustomed to record ornithological observations), to the effect that this bird was 'found dead on the Bridge at Tanfield,' and had been given to his father-in-law, who had it 'preserved by the late John Stubbs of Ripon, fishing-tackle maker and bird-stuffer.' Mr. George Clarke also remembered the owner having several times refused the offer of twenty guineas for the specimen, and after his death had looked in vain for the specimen, which, it appears, had been put away in a lumber-room and wholly forgotten. I think, therefore, that no doubt can be entertained of our having before us the remains of the very bird which was found dead at Tanfield, as recorded by Gould, and that we are much indebted to the gentlemen concerned in hunting out this specimen, which had so long disappeared."

Mr. H. E. Dresser exhibited on behalf of Lord Lilford some specimens of a Titmouse obtained by Dr. Guillemard in Cyprus, and made the following remarks:—

"I have pleasure in exhibiting three specimens of a Titmouse from Cyprus, allied to *Parus ater*, which appears to me to be worthy of specific distinction, and for which I propose the name *Parus cypriotes*. The specimens in question were collected by Dr. Guillemard near the Kikko Monastery, Cyprus, at an altitude of 4000 feet, and, as will be seen, differ from *Parus ater* in having the upper parts brownish as in *Parus britannicus*, but rather darker, in having the white nuchal patch almost obsolete, and in having the black on the throat extended much further down than in *Parus ater*, thus covering a much larger area. The underparts are tinged with buff, the flanks and under tail-coverts being much darker in tint.

"This form is nearly allied to *Parus amodius* from the Himalayas, and on comparison with a series will, I think, prove to be also nearly allied to *Parus michalowskii*, from the Caucasus."

Mr. Boulenger exhibited a living specimen of a rare African Batrachian, *Xenopus laevis*, Daud., one of the few representatives of the *Aglossa*, which had been sent to him by Mr. Leslie, F.Z.S., of Port Elizabeth. The specimen, a breeding male, showed closely-set fine black asperities, forming a band along the upper surface of each finger; copulatory asperities had not previously been noticed in *Xenopus*. Another point of interest resides in the curious position of the hand. When the animal is at rest the hand is bent sideways and inwards, with the fingers superposed instead of on the same horizontal plane, so that the inner finger only touches the ground; the outer surface (which corresponds to the lower in other frogs) is

coloured, the inner colourless and provided with the nuptial excrescences. This tortion, together with the extreme similarity of the four fingers, renders it difficult to decide, at a first glance, which of the digits are the pre-axial and which the post-axial. The colour of the upper parts is a uniform olive-brown, that of the lower a carneous white. The pupil, in a strong light, is vertically oval; the iris is much obscured by black pigment, except a narrow golden ring round the pupil. The web between the toes is transparent, with the veins forming beautiful arborescent purplish lines.

Mr. Boulenger intended to hand over the specimen to Prof. Howes, who, he hoped, would investigate the circulatory, muciferous, and urogenital systems. It was most desirable that such an examination should be made, as nothing was known of the soft anatomy of the *Dactylethridæ*.

Prof. Flower exhibited and made remarks on a photograph of a specimen of Rudolphi's Whale (*Balenoptera borealis*), taken in the Thames near Tilbury, on the 18th October last. The sex had been ascertained to be male.

A letter was read addressed to the Secretary by Dr. Emin Pasha, C.M.Z.S., dated Wadelai, April 15, 1887, referring to some collections sent to the British Museum, and offering some account of his observations on Natural History to the Society.

The following papers were read:—

1. A List of the Reptiles and Batrachians collected by Mr. H. H. Johnston on the Rio del Rey, Cameroons District, W. Africa. By G. A. BOULENGER.

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1. RHAMPHOLEON SPECTRUM, Buchh.
2. UROBELUS GABONICUS, A. Dum.
3. DIPSADOBOA UNICOLOR, Gthr.
4. CORNUFER JOHNSTONI, sp. n.

Tongue with a conical papilla in the anterior part of the median line. Vomerine teeth in two slightly oblique series behind the line of the choanæ. Snout rounded, shorter than the diameter of the orbit; canthus rostralis obtuse; loreal region concave; nostril nearer the tip of the snout than the eye; interorbital space nearly as broad as the upper eyelid; tympanum half the diameter of the orbit. Digits terminating in triangular expansions, the diameter of which